



Wildlife and Conservation

Rebecca Dasan Current student

I chose this course because there was the option for a placement year. There also seemed to be lots of interesting topics covered by the modules and it was a bit different to the usual Ecology or Environment courses.

After writing to a range of Zoos for my placement I was finally offered a place at the Welsh Mountain Zoo in Colwyn Bay in North Wales - I worked about 4 days a week helping the keepers, and as it is a small zoo was gradually given more and more responsibility and trusted to do things on my own, and on a few occasions was treated like a cover keeper; taking complete responsibility (even if it was just the childrens farm animals!)

I also used the placement as an opportunity to collect data for my dissertation as I wanted to do it on great apes, and so I spent hours watching the chimpanzees after working on the section to get to know who was who. I was able to host one of the chimp shows; this involved talking to the public about the chimps; explaining who was who and how they are looked after.

I think a placement anywhere is a really good idea not just for the experience for a future job but for living "in the real world", as it gave me the opportunity to live entirely on my own, and forced me to take full responsibility for paying bills, rent and generally looking after myself.



BSc (Hons)

Wildlife and Practical Conservation

BSc (Hons)

Wildlife Conservation with Zoo Biology

Why should you study this course?

- Lots of organised field trips supplement your lectures – including visits to zoos and safari parks.
- Opportunities for work placements in the UK and overseas – from a local animal hospital to working with polar bears at Central Park Zoo in New York.
- You'll be taught by lecturers with backgrounds in conservation, working with large zoo animals and research on animals both in zoos and in the wild.

What's the course about?

In both these degrees you study modules in the ecology and behaviour of wildlife, conservation biology, marine biology, terrestrial and freshwater habitats, genetics, terrestrial ecology, hydrobiology, wildlife law, primate behaviour conservation and zoo biology.

The first year modules are common to both degrees making it possible to switch courses at the end of your first year.

- Wildlife and Practical Conservation specialises in general conservation, the physical environment and landscape, but also provides the opportunity to study the ecology and behaviour of animals in the wild.
- Wildlife Conservation with Zoo Biology focuses on the role of zoos in conservation. We have close links with local zoos and aquariums to provide you with a wide range of experiences throughout your course – for example you will be given specialist lectures from zoo keepers, vets and curators.

For a full list of modules studied on these programmes, visit www.els.salford.ac.uk

Field trips and skills

Both courses give you the opportunity to develop useful skills in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and Remote Sensing using satellite technology. Both techniques are used to monitor and analyse habitat change and map animal distributions to help make conservation decisions – for example which habitats to protect for particular species.

There are both day and residential field trips in all three years of the degree course. These currently include trips to Dale Fort in Pembrokeshire, Preston Montford in Shrewsbury, Yorkshire Dales and Derbyshire. Visits are also arranged to local nature reserves, Chester Zoo, Twycross Zoo, Dudley Zoo and Blackpool Zoo, Knowsley Safari Park and South Lakes Wild Animal Park.

Placement and work experience opportunities

You will be encouraged to undertake an additional year of work experience, either in the UK or overseas. This takes place between years 2 and 3 (making a four year full-time course in all). You will pay no tuition fees during this year.

Placements have included a seal sanctuary in Ireland, a Nature Reserve in Lincolnshire, an Animal Hospital in Cheshire, a marine project in Tanzania, a wolf sanctuary in New Mexico, large mammal projects (wolves, bears, mountain lions) in Canada, and the Welsh Mountain Zoo.

After you graduate

Zoos play an important role in the conservation of biodiversity. Many species are now bred in captivity as part of national, regional and international breeding programmes.

The EC Zoos Directive requires zoos and aquariums in the European Union to have a conservation role. As a result, it is likely that zoos across Europe will increase their breeding, scientific and educational activities in the future and with this degree, you could be the person they are looking for.

Previous students have obtained employment as rangers in country parks, with water companies and in zoos. Others have undertaken research for a PhD including studying orangutans in Borneo, large animals in Tanzania and various projects in urban ecology.

Duration Three years full-time, four years with placement year. Up to six years part-time.

Entry requirements Advanced GCE level: 200 points including two subjects at A2. Please ask if you have alternative qualifications.

Programme code
Wildlife and Practical Conservation C190.
Wildlife Conservation with Zoo Biology D4C3.